

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-20. (cancelled)

21. (currently amended) A system for controlling a telecommunications network, the system comprising:

a first switch fabric, situated within the telecommunications network, for controlling connections in the telecommunications network, the first switch fabric having:

~~first and second ports; and~~

a first port containing a first voice data section and a first control section, wherein the first voice data section and the first control section are logically distinct;

a second port contains a second voice data section and a second control section, wherein the second voice data section and the second control section are logically distinct;

a third port containing a third voice data section and a third control section, wherein the third voice data section and the third control section are logically distinct and connect to a first peripheral apparatus;

a fourth port containing a fourth voice data section and a fourth control section, wherein the fourth voice data section and the fourth control section are logically distinct and connect to a second peripheral apparatus; and

a bridging circuit connecting the first voice data section and the second voice data section; and

~~third and fourth ports each connected to either a second switch fabric, situated within the telecommunications network, or a corresponding one of a plurality of peripheral apparatus;~~

~~a bridging circuit contained within the telecommunications network and connected between the first and second ports; and~~

a computer apparatus arranged to communicate with the ~~first port~~ first control section for controlling a first connection between the bridging circuit and ~~[[a]] the first one of the peripheral apparatus and to communicate with the second port~~ second control section for controlling a second connection between the bridging circuit and ~~[[a]] the second one of the peripheral apparatus such that, as a result of communication between the computer apparatus and the first switch fabric, the first and second connections are established and bridged by and within the telecommunications network, thereby connecting the first peripheral apparatus to the second peripheral apparatus.~~

22. (cancelled)

23. (currently amended) The system recited in claim ~~[[22]]~~ 21 wherein:

the computer apparatus is arranged to send a first control command to the ~~first port~~ control section, via ~~[[the]]~~ a first control link, for controlling the first connection between the bridging circuit and the first peripheral apparatus; and

the computer apparatus is arranged to send a second control command to the ~~second port~~ control section, via ~~[[the]]~~ a second control link, for controlling the second connection between the bridging circuit and the second peripheral apparatus.

24. (currently amended) The system recited in claim 21, wherein the first voice data section and the second voice data section ~~ports~~ support multiple bridging circuits[[:]] and the system comprises a plurality of bridging circuits with at least two of the bridging circuits being combined in a common trunk.

25. (currently amended) The system recited in claim 23[[2]] wherein the first and second control links are combined in a control network.

26. (previously presented) The system recited in claim 21 wherein the first switch fabric comprises a single telecommunications switch.

27. (currently amended) The system recited in claim 21 wherein the first switch fabric comprises first and second telecommunications switches with the first telecommunications switch having the first and third ports and the second telecommunications switch having the second and fourth ports.

28. (previously presented) The system recited in claim 21 wherein the computer apparatus is arranged to receive control signals from the first switch fabric.

29. (currently amended) The system recited in claim 28 wherein the computer apparatus is arranged to pass control signals from the first and second control ~~ports~~ sections to the second and first control ~~ports~~ sections, respectively.

30. (previously presented) The system recited in claim 28 wherein the computer apparatus is arranged to perform a corresponding service upon receipt of one of the control signals from the first switch fabric.

31. (previously presented) The system recited in claim 21 wherein the computer apparatus comprises a server.

32. (currently amended) The system recited in claim 31 wherein:
the computer apparatus further comprises a signaling gateway arranged to communicate with the server; and

the signaling gateway comprises first and second communication ports for communicating with ~~the control section of~~ the first and second control ports sections, respectively, of the first switching fabric.

33. (previously presented) The system recited in claim 32 wherein the server communicates, through a computer network, with a user terminal.

34. (previously presented) The system recited in claim 21 wherein the control commands comprise commands related to establishing or breaking a telecommunications connection.

35. (currently amended) The system recited in claim 21 wherein the computer apparatus is arranged to generate a call detail record upon establishing a connection ~~via the first or second ports to the third port~~ from one of the first voice data section and the second voice data section to the third port.

36. (currently amended) A method for use in a system for controlling a telecommunications network, wherein the system comprises a first switch fabric, situated within the telecommunications network, for controlling connections in the telecommunications network~~[[;]], the first switch fabric having first and second ports; and third and fourth ports~~ a first port, a second port, a third port, and a fourth port, wherein the first port contains a first voice data section and a first control section that are logically distinct, and wherein the second port contains a second voice data section and a section control section that are logically distinct, wherein the a third port contains a third voice data section and a third control section that are logically distinct and are connected to a first peripheral apparatus, wherein a fourth port contains a fourth voice data section and a fourth control section that are logically distinct and are connected to a second peripheral apparatus, and each connected to either a second switch fabric, situated within the telecommunications network, or a corresponding one of a plurality of peripheral apparatus; and wherein a bridging circuit, contained within the telecommunications network, is connected between the first and second voice data sections, ports; and wherein a computer apparatus is arranged to communicate with the first and second control sections ports, the method comprising the steps, performed by the computer apparatus of:

controlling a first connection between the bridging circuit and ~~[[a]] the first one of the~~ peripheral apparatus;

controlling a second connection between the bridging circuit and ~~[[a]] the second one of~~
the peripheral apparatus; and

instructing the bridging circuit to bridge the first and second connections, ~~such that,~~
thereby as a result of communication between the computer apparatus and the first switch fabric
over the first and second control sections, the first and second connections are established and
bridged by and within the telecommunications network.

37. (currently amended) The method recited in claim 36 further comprising the
steps, performed by the computer apparatus, of:

controlling the first connection by sending a first control command to the first ~~port~~
control section; and

controlling the second connection by sending a second control command to the second
~~port control section~~.

38. (cancelled)

39. (previously presented) The method recited in claim 36 further comprising
the step of sending a control command from the computer apparatus to the first switch fabric
upon receipt of a user command from a user, the computer apparatus comprising a server
communicating with the first switch fabric and the server communicating, via a computer
network, with a user terminal through which the user issues the user command.

40. (currently amended) The method recited in claim 39 further comprising the steps
of:

receiving a call by the first switch fabric at the third port;
sending a control command from the first control section of the first switch fabric to the server; and
communicating a response from the server to the user terminal upon receipt of the control command from the first switch fabric.

41. (new) The system of claim 21, wherein the computer apparatus control of the bridging circuit is based on at least one of a time of day, a day of a week, and a calling party.

42. (new) The system of claim 21, wherein the computer apparatus receives a signal from a device associated with the first connection, and responsively commands the first switching fabric disconnect the first connection from the second connection and to bridge the first connection with a third connection, wherein the third connection is also supported by the first switching fabric.